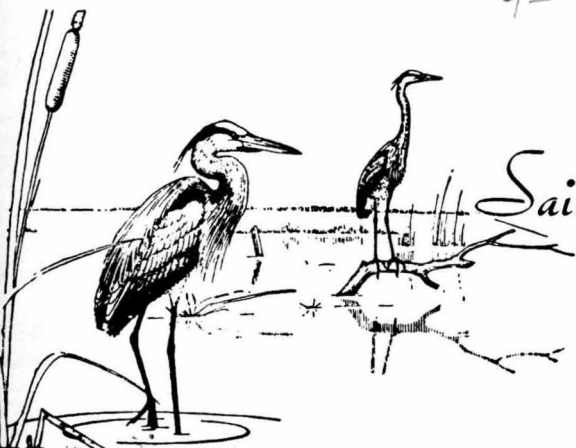




Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

September, 1959

Vol. 28, No. 1

WILLIAM A. ANDERSON

Presents . . . DESIGNS FOR SURVIVAL

Tuesday, October 27

Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington, 8:15 p.m.

William Anderson has produced a striking film which reveals the wisdom of Nature's intricate balance in equipping animals to cope with their particular environment in order to survive. Designs for feeding, movement, protection, and reproduction in nature are well illustrated in a beautiful film in natural color. This superbly photographed and entertainingly narrated film represents pathos and comedy blended in designs for survival.

William A. Anderson is a man of distinguished talent in the field of nature photography. He owes this talent to what he calls a fortunate and "double exposure" in early life. "From the front door of my boyhood home in Illinois, I could see the city of Rockford. My interest in music and drama brought me into close touch with people in the city, and I spent many happy hours there. But from the back door, I remember most vividly the meadows and woodlands where I used to wander frequently. I came to know and respect the natural creatures living in that world of wonderment."

A native curiosity led Bill Anderson into a great variety of endeavors — music and mechanics, poetry and pigeons, elocution and electricity. However, it was not until Bill was serving as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Professional and Scientific Division of the Air Force that this wide range of experience proved its worth.

After the completion of his service in the Air Force, he and his wife Claire made a film called "Monarch Butterfly Story" in their spare time. What was to have been the entry of two amateurs in an amateur movie club contest turned out to be an internationally acclaimed prize-winning educational film. The Andersons immediately accepted an offer to become producers of educational films on natural history subjects.

For ten years Bill and Claire Anderson have been dedicated to this effort. As a husband and wife team, they have done the research, written

the scripts, edited and sound tracked 16 classroom films. They have also supplied sequences for three of Walt Disney's Oscar-winning nature films and a number of Disneyland television productions.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI WEEK END

October 3 and 4, 1959, a week earlier than usual. Camp Clover Point. Lake of the Ozarks. Registration fee \$1.50 for adults. Children under 12, 50c. Meals per adult \$1.00, or four for \$3.50. Children 50c each meal. Make reservations with Florence Comfort — WO 2-8373 as soon as possible.

FIELD TRIPS

A field trip of the St. Louis Nature Study Society will be held at the Arboretum on September 26. Leaders will be furnished for this trip. The Arboretum, located at Gray's Summit, will provide an ideal variety of habitat as there are 1676 acres in the area. This should be a very interesting opening of our fall season which will inaugurate our activities at the St. Louis Audubon Society Nature Center.

Beginning a new plan for our members, it is our intention to have at least one field trip a month during the fall, winter, and spring seasons and these will be scheduled for the last Sunday of each month, beginning October 25. Meet at the Nature Center of the Arboretum located at the gate at 8 o'clock in the morning. Of course, there will be scheduled trips at other localities which will be announced later.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

Due to her plans to spend the winter in Florida, Thelma Thalinger has had to give up the editorship of the Bulletin. We will miss her ability and hope she and Oscar will have a very pleasant winter in Florida. We hope to see her back next year to resume activities.

* * *

While the Massies were in Grand Teton this summer they saw a pair of trumpeter swans and four cygnets. They watched the parents feed their young and then saw the little ones retire in a beaver house while the parents stood guard.

* * *

The Haths rescued a broadtail hummingbird (indigenous to the Rocky Mountain area) that had flown or fallen into a barbecue pit near their summer cottage in Colorado. Since it had been injured and could not fly, the Haths brought it to St. Louis fearing that predators would get it if it were left alone. After constant attention en route and three additional days on the bird's favorite diet at the Hath's Home, it was sufficiently recovered to fly around their house. Earl says we will hear a sequel to this story soon.

CONSERVATION IN THE WEST

BY ALEX HOPE

Until the turn of the century most Americans believed that our country possessed boundless resources. There were practically no shortages at that time of anything that man was using industrially or commercially and even our most optimistic students did not foresee the growth that was to take place during the next 50 years. Long before the end of that half century, we became keenly aware of many shortages. Some of our forest areas had been ill-advisedly cut over. A goodly part of our mineral wealth had been consumed and, perhaps most importantly, we were aware of a pronounced water shortage in many sections of the country.

A traveller who now journeys west can see at a glance how wise conservancy has bolstered our water supply, helping the agriculturist conserve for the dry months what might have run off during the spring rains and the early summer's melting snows. Talking with natives in Wyoming and in Utah, we had them point out to us large areas which were at one time arid, but which dams and irrigation have made into valuable land. The need for such conservation has been accentuated by the rapid growth of our population and by the normal spill-over of these new millions into lands heretofore inhabited by only the buffalo and the antelope.

Then, too, the desire of our people to "hit the trail" once more has brought about the need for large recreational areas. The ones near metropolitan centers have long since been over-crowded so our expanding populace needed new acreage to deploy themselves in the wilderness.

The crowds now coming to Grand Teton, where we spent most of our vacation, would not find the place nearly so attractive were it not for the man made dam that makes Jackson Lake a reality. Fact is that three-fourths of the resorts we saw in the far west were made possible by dams.

The recreational feature, however, was not the most important one. In the Salt Lake Tribune of Saturday, August 15, their leading editorial was headed:

"Saved by the Reservoirs."



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That article, together with news items in the same issue, emphasized the important part that irrigation and water storage play in that semi-arid country, particularly during drouth periods. It said in part "Without the water stored in the many reservoirs, large and small, the agricultural picture in most of Utah would have been really dismal. As it is, the total crop production picture actually is bright considering the extreme shortage. . . . Stored water from reclamation and irrigation projects saved much of the state from real disaster."

In Fort Peck, Montana, we found the largest earth-fill dam on the continent. A bird's eye view of this immense project, a 4 mile long dam, gives some idea of the extent of water conservancy in that area. With a capacity of 19 million acre feet and a reservoir that backs up a maximum of 180 miles, the extent of water storage there is almost too great to be imagined. This great dam serves a triple purpose (1) it makes water available for nearby irrigation, (2) it has a large hydro-electric power plant, (3) it is of tremendous value in flood control.

Our National Audubon Society has continually stressed the virtues of a broad conservation program and sights like these leave one with a vivid impression of what man has done to put such principles into practice.

WE LEND A HAND

Our Society gave considerable assistance to the Pitzman Nature Program at Shaw's Garden during the season recently ended. Instructors furnished by the Audubon Society for our phase of this program included Helen Bowman, Larry Licht, Stuart and May O'Byrne, Jeane Stern and Connie and Earl Hath.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY

The St. Louis Audubon Society

Earl H. Hath.....President

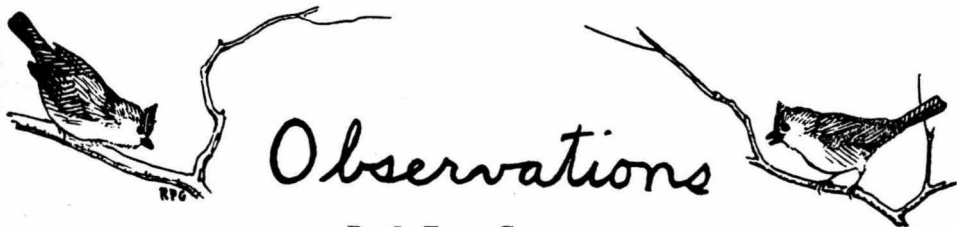
Miss Alberta Bolinger.....Executive Secretary

LETTERHEADS
PROGRAMS
BOOKLETS
WEDDING INVITATIONS
• • •

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BY J. EARL COMFORT

Summer and early fall birding in the St. Louis Area, as always, had its exciting moments. August proved by far the most popular month for that anticipated season of pleasant relaxation and just plain loafing. The Rockies, as usual the greatest drawing power, attracted many groups and families; Glacier, Rocky Mountain National Parks, and the Tetons being high on the list.

With nature trails lending variety for enthusiastic bird listing and nature study in general, as well as beckoning relaxing hiking, there was also photographing and enjoyment of scenic beauty extraordinary.

In contrast to 1958, the 1959 spring warbler migration gave us a few exceptional waves that had many of us afield excitedly listing birds some of us failed to sight last year. Our total warbler list reached a respectable 34 species; Hooded, Cape May, Connecticut and Yellow-throated being the rarest species counted. Unusually common concerning these particular species were Magnolia, Chestnut-sided and Blackpoll — birds that have been rather hard to muster in other years.

Rarest listing of the year was that of two Black Vultures in St. Charles County on May 5 by Diane and Gene Wilhelm. It was the first modern area record for this southern relative of our common Turkey "Buzzard".

The most popular and one of the most exciting finds was a lone Bohemian Waxwing at the August A. Busch Wildlife Management Area in St. Charles County located by the Wilhelms on April 25 and later jubilantly listed by Earl Hath, Earl Comfort and Dick Anderson.

Another popular (wholesale) listing was the nesting Edwardsville, Illinois, barn owls visited by various groups in June and July. Each season, with the first sight or knowledge of these nesters or nestlings, Sally Springer Vasse starts the grapevine scuttlebutt information rolling by notifying Alberta Bolinger, who, in turn, contacts interested area listers. Other kind cooperators in the intriguing owl project have been the Finks, the Springers and Ella Tunnell, all of Edwardsville. July Fourth saw the biggest contingent of visitors, the visitation occurring in the Tunnell yard for an evening owl concert, 14 assembled guests, counting our genial hostess, watching the exit of the young from the tree hollow nesting site and later listening to the screams of the young as they begged for a late supper, delayed by a nearby fireworks display that probably had the parent owls in an anxious dither. A tie-up with the owl outing was the pleasant "togetherness", a feature that always enhances the get-togethers of our member groups.

Prior to the night owl episode, several visitors to the Fink owls enjoyed immensely peeks of an owl youngster doing a bit of coy people-

watching from its hollow hideaway, much like an inquisitive human counterpart studying callers. With apologies to a well-known comedian, we decided monkey-faced owls is the cwaziest people.

Besides the record making Barn Owl visiting pilgrimages, there were two other nesting records of unusual interest. Some 25 or 30 pairs of nesting Common (American) Egrets at Grande Marais State Park, East St. Louis, had many interested spectators, with Common (Florida) Gallinules at nearby Horseshoe Lake drawing many visitors — most of them adding the rare rail to their 1959 lists.

There were two exceptionally rare duck migrants, a Cinnamon Teal and a Common (American) Scoter. A Red-Shafted Flicker in April was a coveted listing.

Some rare shorebird spring finds were Willet, Turnstone, Sanderling, Wilson's Phalarope and White-rumped Sandpiper. The intriguing long legs, always an early fall migrant, were fairly numerous at Grande Marais as early as mid-July when we counted 11 species in one day.

One of our most enjoyed social picnic gatherings was that of Audubon Board members and their guests at the spacious grounds of the Jim Nelsons, whose beautiful home overlooks the McAdams Highway and the Mississippi River above the Alton Dam. A regatta of boats passing in review as we ate our lunches in the breeze-cooled yard and a sailboat race opposite our viewing stand were made to order. After lunch we enjoyed a hike along the nature trails marked by the Nelsons. Our gracious hostess and her husband went all out to make our visit a pleasant one.

A summary of our Audubon spring and summer outdoor activity shows two Shaw's Garden and four Forest Park spring bird walks for the public, Shaw's Garden Arboretum, Creve Coeur Lake and August A. Busch Wildlife Area nature hikes and a car caravan ride up the Illinois McAdams Highway above Alton. In addition there were the usual four Harris Teachers ornithology class bird-nature tours.

As was the case last summer, there were Shaw's Garden week-day Nature Conservation class gatherings for youngsters with many faithful Audubon instructors on hand — the bird study walks furnishing the greatest attraction and creating the most interest during the two semesters. Incentive awards were presented to several youths for outstanding achievements at their termination.

Future outdoor activity in the form of Nature trips at the Arboretum will be stepped up considerably through continued use of this Garden paradise. Through the cooperation of Shaw officials and Connie and Earl Hath early in the year, our Society was given special Nature hike privileges there, as well as the use of the building at the entrance where we will be able to assemble for the walks and at the lunch hour. The acquisition of the heated building will prove to be an especial asset on cold winter day jaunts. There will be regularly scheduled field trips to instill and encourage Nature conservation interest in a setting affording great potentialities for conservation-minded persons of all ages.

1959 - 1960 SCREEN TOURS

WALTER J. BRECKENRIDGE

Island Treasure

Tuesday, December 1

ERNEST P. EDWARDS

Motmots and Mayas

Thursday, February 11

LEONARD HALL

An Ozark Anthology

Thursday, March 10

FRAN WILLIAM HALL

Puerto Rico, U.S.A.

Thursday, April 28

These programs will all be held at the Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington, at 8:15 p. m., on the respective dates. They are free and open to the public. Audubon members are encouraged to bring their friends to these outstanding events.

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